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SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 1, 2022

From the Conference Minister: Many Hands

by Rev. Kim Wood

"Then Eliashib the high priest set to work with his fellow priests and built the Sheep Gate. The people of Jericho built next to them, and Zaccur, Imri's son, built next to them. The children of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate. Next to them Meremoth made repairs. Meshullam made repairs next to them, and Zadok made repairs next to them. Next to them the people from Tekoa made repairs... and between the upper room of the corner and the Sheep Gate, the goldsmiths and the merchants made repairs."



excerpts from Jeremiah 3:1-5, 32 (CEB)

I grew up on the phrase "many hands make light work." It was a favorite of my teachers in primary school when it was time to put things away after art or play time. My grandmother loved to use it when it was time to clear the table or do the dishes after a big family meal. And it was proven time and again at church clean-up days – if only a few people showed up, it seemed like we were there all day. But if everyone pitched in, we could be done in a few hours and usually with some fun and laughter along the way.

The work of community is usually bigger than what one person can handle, heavier than what one person can carry, and the ministry of church was never meant to be done alone. A few years ago, a devastating E3 tornado touched down in the town where I was serving as a local church pastor. We quickly determined that a place to feed people was needed. By the next morning, which was Ash Wednesday, two of the congregation's leaders had put a plan into motion. There was no way they could do this work alone,

but they called on others to pitch in – other members of the church, friends and neighbors, agencies, organizations, and local vendors and businesses. As the need grew, so did the list of volunteers and donors. What appeared to be a daunting task to provide food in a safe space for people in need became a well-oiled machine made of people working side-by-side to care for those in need. Many hands make light work!

As the Southeast Conference together - all the people in all of the local congregations and ministry settings in all of the communities spread across our vast geographic expanse - we have made a bold commitment to proclaim and live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That commitment is reflected in the budget that we adopted at our Annual Meeting this past June. As we look toward the new fiscal year that begins October 1st, I ask you to prepare for the ministry that we are called to do, side by side, supporting one another in our local and shared endeavors. This year, a good portion of our mutual ministry will be funded through the Friends of the Conference Fund. This fund, separate from our OCWM dollars, relies on individual gifts, as well as our willingness to invite others to join in supporting our shared vision. If you have not yet made a commitment to the Southeast Conference Friends of the Conference fund, please set aside time to pray about how God is calling you to participate. No act of generosity is too small, for many hands make light work. Please consider a gift to this fund for the upcoming fiscal year, whether a one-time gift or a recurring donation. You may give by going to our website at SECUCC.org and clicking on the donate button – make sure that you note that your gift is for the Friends of the Conference Fund for FY23. You may also contribute by sending a check to PO Box 1950, Decatur, GA. 30031-1950. Please be sure to mark the memo line “Friends of the Conference FY23.” If you would like to make a commitment for a donation to be fulfilled during the year, or for a recurring gift, you may contact the Conference office or submit a commitment form, which will soon be available on our website.

Many hands do make light work. When we work side by side, next to one another, each bringing our own resources and talents to the ministry at hand, we can do great things in response to God’s call to us to create a just world for all. It is my prayer that God’s generosity will flow with abundance from our hearts as we serve together as the Southeast Conference, UCC.

News from the Conference Office

From the Generosity Coordinator

by Min. Carrole Moss

Greetings ALL. Thank you so much for your good wishes and prayers as I continue this healing journey. I am so grateful for your messages and expressions of love. Responses like yours confirm that I am on the right path and fulfilling my purpose. I am here to SERVE.. THANK YOU ..I AM GRATEFUL!!

Life has shown up in expected and sometimes painful ways. Please know that I am sending you PRAYERS OF LOVE, LIGHT, COMFORT, PEACE, RESTORATION, AND PEACE!!



3 John 1:2 teaches: *Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prosperity.* Good health is a mandate.

"GENTLE REMINDER" - Our FISCAL year ends September 30th, 2022. If this is the schedule that you adhere to, please don't forget that date. Should you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me directly, or to the SECUCC office for guidance.

A HUGE note of THANK YOU to all of you who make your contributions a priority.. everything that you contribute is so appreciated! YOU make this Southeast Conference UCC relevant and we are so grateful for all the ways you continue to support in the good and bad times! THANK YOU!!

Please don't forget the date, September 30, 2022. We need and appreciate your continued support!

Peace and blessings, as we continue on this journey,

Ecclesiastical Council for Gavin Warren

The Commission on Ministry of the Southeast Conference Invites you to participate in the Ecclesiastical Council for Gavin Warren on September 13 at 7 pm Eastern, 6 pm Central. on Zoom. You can [register to attend here](#). Gavin is a member in discernment with Holy Trinity UCC in Nashville, TN.

Clergy Zoom Connections for September

- **An Hour of Conversations and Prayer**

Tuesday, September 6, 13, 20, 27 - 11:00 a.m. Eastern (10:00 a.m. Central); Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/479440102>

- **Live Harp Meditations for Ministers**

Thursday, September 15 - 1:00 p.m. Eastern (12:00 noon Central)
20 minutes of meditation with Celtic harp. Silent prayer and reflection following if desired, facilitated by Rev. Jean Norton.

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96976838422>

- **Especially for Specialized Ministers**

Tuesday, September 27 - 9:30 a.m. Eastern (8:30 a.m. Central)

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/354744689>



Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2022. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers.

Week of September 4

- Community Congregational UCC; Montgomery, Alabama
- Michelle Calderon
- Michelle Holtmann
- Benjamin Rose
- Herbert Turner
- Anita Louise Hauenstein

Week of September 11

- Oak Grove Congregational Christian; Pine Mountain, Georgia
- Pamela Canzater
- Richard Barnham

- Emily Bel
- Wayde Washburn
- Ginnie Ferrell

Churches in Transition

First Congregational, Savannah GA; Trinity Congregational, Athens AL; Holy Trinity Community Church, Nashville TN; First United Church, Belvidere TN; Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill TN; Deer Lodge Congregational Church, Deer Lodge TN; Brookemeade Congregational, Nashville TN; Rush Memorial, Atlanta GA; Sandy Creek, Lafayette AL

News from Our Local Congregations

Upper Room UCC Fellowship in Nashville is Sat, Sep 17

After two years without meeting due to COVID, the Upper Room UCC Fellowship in Nashville resumes! It will be a catered COVID-safe brunch under a big tent with fans. Bring family & friends for great UCC fellowship & inspiration! Our Conference minister Rev. Kim Wood will be a special guest speaker as well as Rev. Robert Hall from Howard Congregational & Gavin Warren from Holy Trinity. It is an event you won't want to miss! [Learn more on the HTCC website.](#)



Central Congregational Atlanta Delivers 40 Uniforms to

Local Elementary School

On behalf of Central Congregational UCC in Atlanta, Joyce Myers Brown and Peggy Thompson delivered 40 uniforms and a \$1,000 check for classroom supplies to Montclair Elementary School. The school honored their donation with a plaque.

News from the Wider Church



Back Bay Mission Hosts “Making Good Trouble” Conference

Get your tickets to attend the “Making Good Trouble” Conference! The conference will run over four days and will be packed with learning, fellowship, and fun! This opportunity will be capped at 100 people in attendance. Tickets are now available, \$250 per person for all four days of festivities or \$150 if you just want to attend the Friday festivities that include the “Making Good Trouble” Conference Day and the Shrimp Boil.

[Learn more on our website.](#)

Lunch and Learn with the Southern Region UCC

September 15, 2022

12:00 – 1:00 PM EDT

Topic: What is Christian Nationalism

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84176821060>

Sign on a few minutes early as we'll start right at noon eastern time. We'll listen together to a podcast from **Christians Against Christian Nationalism** while eating lunch at our various desks and other places and will follow up with 30 minutes of conversation and discussion. Come and go as you wish.

The Podcast this time: Christian leaders on Christian nationalism

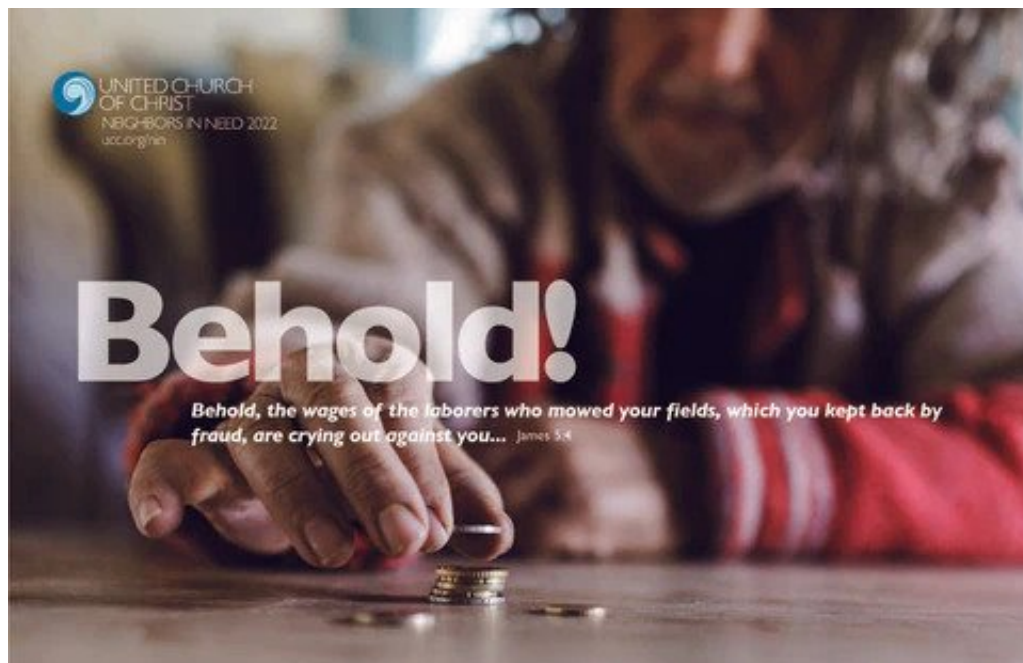
Amanda Tyler talks with five Christian leaders who are taking a stand against the dangerous ideology of Christian nationalism: Bishop Elizabeth Eaton (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), the Rev. Dr. Paul Baxley (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship), Diane Randall (Friends Committee on National Legislation), Sister Simone Campbell (NETWORK Lobby), and the Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray (American Baptist Home Mission Societies).

The Birth of a Movement: A 40th Anniversary Retrospective Webinar

One of the most significant events in the history of the UCC was a six-week nonviolent action campaign in 1982 that gave birth to the environmental justice movement with its pioneering focus on environmental racism. As more than 500 people were arrested to prevent the dumping of toxic waste in a predominantly black community, a nation soon became awakened to the crisis of environmental racism.

This webinar will feature three leaders from the 1982 protest against the dumping of toxic waste in Warren County, North Carolina: Dollie Burwell, the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Chavis, Jr., and the Rev. William Kearney.

Even if you can't make the scheduled time on Wednesday, September 14th at 1 pm ET/12 pm CT/11 am MT/10 am PT, still [sign-up here](#), and we will send you a recording.



Neighbors in Need 2022 Campaign

The Neighbors in Need "BEHOLD!" offering focuses on economic justice. With inflation impacting all of our households, we wanted to provide a way to discuss this topic through a faith lens.

Join us by promoting this year's campaign at your church. Explore the promotional toolkit, which contains a four-week bible study, coloring book, three posters, social media banners, and a leader's guide. These materials will assist you in planning and carrying out the 2022 NIN campaign.

Most churches will collect the offering on October 2nd, 2022, as a part of World Communion Sunday, but contributions can be made at any time.

[Learn more from UCC Resources.](#)

Trainings, Conferences & Events

Active Shooter Preparedness Webinars

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (**CISA**) invites you to join a two-hour security webinar to enhance awareness of and response to an active shooter event. Preparing employees for a potential active shooter incident is an integral component of an organization's incident response planning. Because active shooter incidents are unpredictable and evolve quickly, preparing for and knowing what to do in an active shooter situation can be the difference between life and death. Every second counts.

The webinar focuses on providing awareness training that supports the development of emergency action planning capabilities. These capabilities may better position organizations to receive important legal liability protections from the DHS Support Anti-Terrorism by Fostering Effective Technologies (SAFETY) Act of 2002. To learn more visit www.safetyact.gov.

- [Wednesday, September 7, 2022](#) / 1:00 p.m.
- [Tuesday, September 20, 2022](#) / 3:00 p.m.
- [Tuesday, September 27, 2022](#) / 10:00 a.m.

Service of Lament, Repentance, & Action against gun violence

Join Christians across the country for a Service of Lament, Repentance, &

Action against gun violence in your local faith community.

What? We will unite our voices across the country, just like World Communion Sunday, by planning individual worship services that directly address the gun violence pandemic in our nation.

Where? In your local faith community

When? September 18th

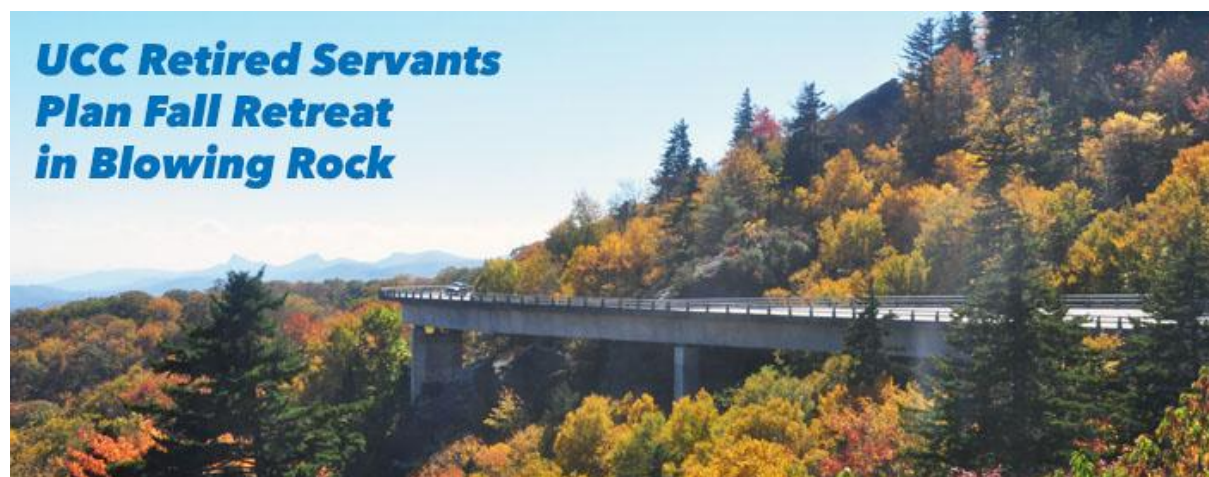
Why? Because we follow a peacemaker named Jesus who reminds us again and again that love is an active verb.

How? This website is filled with resources to help you plan a meaningful worship service, including liturgy, music, sermon reflections, further study and action, images, children's education, and information on how to get the word out in your local community.

Then what? Sign up at <https://christiansunitedagainstgunviolence.org> or email Rev. Abby Henrich at abbyhenrich@gmail.com.

UCC Clergywomen Leadership Event in Decatur, GA

The UCC Clergywomen's Leadership Event has been postponed at least twice during the pandemic, and we are excited to be offering the event this September 27-29 in Decatur, GA. "For Such a Time: To Confront, Connect, and Create at the Intersection of Race and Gender" is open to authorized clergywomen* in the United Church of Christ. [Registration](#) is now open for in-person and online gathering. (** This invitation is expansive to include all cis and trans women as well as non-binary people comfortable in a space that centers on the experiences of women.*)



UCC Retired Servants Retreat

October 10 - 12 (Mon. - Wed. with optional Sunday arrival)

Blowing Rock Conference Center

- **Theme:** The ministry and spirituality of Howard Thurmond
- **Presenter:** Lerita Coleman Brown
- **Host Site:** Blowing Rock Conference Center, Blowing Rock, NC
- **Date:** October 10-12, 2022 (Monday-Wednesday, with optional Sunday arrival)

An Event for intellectual stimulation, spiritual enlightenment and reflection; and renewing friendships and/or making new friends for Retired UCC Clergy, Missionaries, Volunteer Ministry Workers and Spouses of the Southeast and Southern Conferences of the United Church of Christ.

Register now by contacting Jared Greer, Reservations Manager at Blowing Rock Conference Center jared@brccenter.org or by calling him at (828) 295-7813.



2022 UCC Southern Regional Women's Retreat

October 14-16, 2022

Camp Weed & Cervený Conference Center – Live Oak, Florida

Theme: God of Mystery – Spirit of Hope

Registration Deadline Extended to September 15.

Join women from across the South at the 2022 UCC Southern Regional Women's Retreat Oct. 14-16 at Camp Weed & Cervený Conference Center in Live Oak, Florida. The theme is "God of Mystery – Spirit of Hope" with the scripture Romans 12:12-13.

Please note that there will be no refunds for cancellations after Sept. 15, 2022. For more information and additional registration options, please visit <https://www.uccfla.org/floridauccwomen>.

Conference Calendar

September 6 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

September 13 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

September 15 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm EDT

[Live Harp Meditations for Ministers](#)

September 17 @ 11:00 am - 2:00 pm CDT

[Upper Room UCC Fellowship Brunch](#)

September 20 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

September 27 @ 9:30 am - 11:00 am EDT

[Zoom Conversation for Specialized Ministers](#)

September 27 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

View the full calendar of events online: <https://www.secucc.org/events/>

Contact Us

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